



PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW
Director

**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

January 9, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO APPROVE THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR THE ASH
INSTITUTE, JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) – (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve and instruct the Chairman to sign the attached Supplemental Application for the Ash Institute, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Innovations in American Government Award. The application will provide the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) the opportunity to compete for a \$100,000 grant for the Permanency Partners Program (P3). There will be no impact on net County cost (NCC).
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS to accept the grant in the event the grant is awarded to Los Angeles County.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On September 12, 2006, a designee on behalf of DCFS submitted an application on the Innovations in American Government Award competition regarding the Permanency Partners Program (P3). The winning program of this award will receive substantial press coverage and a \$100,000 grant. On November 14, 2006, DCFS was notified by Stephen Goldsmith, Director of Innovations on American Government Awards, that the P3 program had advanced to the next round of the 2007 competition. Only 10% of all applications submitted reached this semi-final stage. In order to continue to compete in the award competition, a supplemental application was required and, on December 12, 2006, the supplemental application was

submitted to the Ash Institute, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. The deadline date for submission of the supplemental application was no later than December 14, 2006 at 3:00 PM.

Further, in order to continue to remain in this competition, the enclosed document must be signed by the Board of Supervisors certifying that, as represented to the Board, the information contained in the application is accurate. This signature must be received no later than Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

Winning this award would allow the P3 program to expand to include more of our community partners' participation in helping foster youth exit the foster care system with one or more permanent connections via reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, or a mentor. This would reduce the number of children in foster care. This award will also draw media attention and therefore, give Los Angeles County positive recognition throughout the country. It would also bring attention to the P3 program where other states and counties can emulate the program and ultimately reduce the number of children in foster care throughout the country.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended action is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 5 (Children and Family Well-Being). By competing for this award, there is an opportunity to receive a grant that would provide permanency to older at-risk children in the foster-care system.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no cost to applying for this grant. The program that wins the grant competition receives \$100,000 to expand the program with community partners.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The P3 program has demonstrated substantial success in achieving permanency for one of the most difficult populations – older youth that have been in the foster care system over 18 months. P3 has been recognized by the Board of Supervisors for their successful implementation of the program and recently received the Productivity Quality Award. Winning this Innovations grant would give P3 program national recognition as well as adding an additional \$100,000 to the funding. This would allow more children to be served by the P3 program and therefore increase the number of older children in foster care reaching permanency.

In the event the grant is awarded to Los Angeles County, the \$100,000 grant will be added to the FY 2006-07 Adopted budget via an "action budget adjustment" using the Chief Administrative Office's delegated authority (i.e., budget adjustments below \$250,000 do not require Board approval).

CAO has reviewed and approved this Board letter.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of the recommended action would allow DCFS to compete for this grant and, if awarded, would improve the lives of children and families in all supervisorial districts by shortening the timelines to permanency for youth under DCFS supervision.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval of the requested action by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the enclosed signature page be signed by the Board of Supervisors and that the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors send one adopt-stamped copy of the Board letter to the following:

1. Department of Children and Family Services
Services Bureau 3
532 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101
Attention: Diane Wagner, Acting Deputy Director

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA S. PLOEHN
DIRECTOR

PSP:DW:de

Attachment (1)

c: Chief Administrative Officer